

FARM AND HOME.

Farm Interests.

The agricultural interests of the country seem to be more tardy and backward in partaking of the progressive spirit of the age than any other of the various interests of our people, which should not be so, as it is the most important—or, at least, is one of the most important—and the present decade should be marked by important changes and improvements in our agricultural interests.

The great improvements which have been made in agricultural implements cannot bring to the tiller of the soil the proper reward, unless he who uses them knows how to take care of them, and make them serviceable in the fullest sense of the word. But our hill-side land cannot be made susceptible of receiving all the benefits which are to be derived from improved agricultural implements, and it is time that farmers should begin to realize the vast difference, in cost, of producing and taking care of crops in the old way, when reapers and mowers of to-day. This difference in cost will, in a few years, render the cultivation of hill-side land unprofitable, except where it produces a very abundant crop—which our hill-side land, even the best of it, under the present destructive system, will soon fail to do.

Now, by the use of tiles (which any brick maker can furnish, and would furnish if there was a sufficient demand) and a regular system of drainage, our hill-side farms could, with all their disadvantages, be made to pay a handsome reward to the husbandman, and instead of being passed, in a worthless condition, from sire to son, after generations will receive them—a rich heritage—in a productive condition, bringing forth grain and grass in due season.

There is also a murderous system of farming in this country which should be abandoned, and abandoned at once—that of "coming land to death." A good farmer ought to know what his land will bear, and never kill the land by over-cropping. Some kinds of soil will stand corn much longer than other soils, but all kinds of soil must have some kind of nutriment, if you would keep it in a healthy condition. Vegetable and animal matter combined are best, but one or the other, if you would have your land productive, it must have; and with a due regard for the providing of this nutriment, your land will be more profitable now and more valuable hereafter.

The miserable system of shallow ploughing, for which there can be no excuse, is another fruitful source of disaster to our agricultural interests, and should be disallowed and frowned upon by all intelligent farmers. Land ploughed very shallow will not produce as good crops in ordinary seasons as the land that is more thoroughly ploughed, and during the extreme dry season, which we sometimes have, the crops on the former suffer much more than those on the latter—the difference in cost of farming, which is the smallest consideration in the count. Shallow ploughing is especially ruinous to hill-side farms, as it "washes," and rendering the soil very shallow, it strips it of its soil and leaves it very light. Once stripped of these, it is difficult to re-suscitate hill-side farms, and the more favored fields are left very flat, or level, and it is very difficult to keep them in a healthy state, there is very little nutriment which is not the case. The treatment of worn-out farms, showing that they are productive with very little cost, is a small cost.

Stone Economy.—To let your stone walls stand year after year, and not repair them, is a great waste of money. My method is to pick up stones in the Spring, after harvest, and sow my grain and sow my grass. I think should not be harrowed, but should be rolled. Stones are much cleaner and cheaper than any other thing. I haul them off after taking off the grain, if the soil is not too wet; if so, any time after. Any farmer can find time to roll his fields and fit them for a mowing machine. Clear out all the fast rocks from the holes. See to it yourself, and trust it to the boys; once well done. It is poor economy to let your cattle to your neighbor's or to let your pump fail. By so doing, you only trouble your neighbor, but they every time you take your pump to the yard. If your pump is old, get a new one at once. A good pump is the cheapest and best now in use. It is poor economy to hitch coils in the barn door, they are liable to get hung with the poor economy to keep more hogs than you can feed, and poor economy to buy and straw to sheep, or to keep any thing you do not need, with no prospect of being able to use it.

The successful management of a farm, especially in this age of progress, requires thought, not less than hard work. It requires more needs to be done than what the seed and reap the harvest. What to plant, in order to be tolerably certain to obtain a good price for the product; what soil, as to quality and rotation of crops; and just when to cultivate, with what implements, to secure the best results. The supportive leisure of winter, and the spring is upon us, and the summer campaign must be commenced, preparing the necessary means to carry it out vigorously.

Essex Pigs.

The Essex is the largest of the small breed of pigs—larger than the small Yorkshire, or Suffolk, or small Berkshire. It is, in fact, what is now known in England as a medium or middle breed. At twelve or fourteen months old, we have had them dress over 400 lbs. They are entirely black, but when dressed are as white as the whitest. Their flesh is remarkably firm, and the lard of the best quality. They have small bones, small upright ears, short snout, good cheek and shoulders, square bodies, short legs and capital hams. They are remarkably compact, and appear much smaller than they really are. They are the quietest and most gentle of all pigs; are good breeders and mothers. But their crowning excellence is their purity of breed—and, as a consequence, they impress their good qualities with great force on any common sows with which they may be crossed.

They will improve any breed which they are crossed. We have crossed them with the large Berkshires, with perhaps a slight reduction in size, but with a marked improvement in form, fattening qualities and early maturity. Crossed with a large, coarse, Chester White sow, we get pigs either all black or black-and-white. For large, common pigs, to be kept until they are a year or eighteen months old, this cross is admirable. For smaller pigs, with less bone and offal, and that will fatten in months or a year old, another cross with the Essex is desirable. A third cross would give pigs almost as fine-boned as the pure Essex. Such pigs can be fattened at four or five months old, and afford the choicest and most delicate of fresh pork—an article as yet almost unknown in our general markets, but which, when once known, is sure to command good prices.

From the smallness of offal and exceedingly quiet disposition, the Essex are easy keepers. They are good graziers. We know of no breed superior to them in this respect. With the run of a good clover pasture, well-wintered grade or thoroughbred Essex pigs will keep in fine growing condition all summer, and if allowed in such a pasture, two or three ears of corn each per day, with access to fresh water, will grow very rapidly, and be at all times ready for the butcher. This is the cheapest way of making pork. For the mere purpose of making pork, we would not recommend the thoroughbred Essex. They are too fine and delicate. Their great value consists in their capacity of improving any of the large, coarse breeds, or, in fact, any kind of common pigs. For this purpose, they must be bred pure. What a farmer needs to improve his stock is thoroughbred males. And in pigs there is no breed more thoroughly established than the Essex. —*American Agriculturist.*

A Treaty on the Pertur—Historic and Biographic.

Vegetable and scientific speaking, the pertur is a edible, subterranean, radicle excrecence, witch, at the rate of \$3 a dozen, and 3 blew stamps (3 scent ones), is the greatest boon ever inflicted onto humanity.

In its serene and magnificent influences upon mankind, it surpasses all the other serals, except, perhaps, the oster, to which it bears a close affinity. The pertur is a feast in itself, being hilly salutary both bled, and baked, and fride, and stude, tho' hardly of the first quality, takin raw. But it is in its concentrated and ethereal form—in the arrowmatic and invigoratin' condishin of that most useful of all floods, wich is viz, to wit, namely, whiskey, that the pertur develops all its laynt loveliness and exhibits all those salubrious vertuze wich has, from time immemorial, rendered it the most delishus of all fruits.

Simpkins patent is pertikly desirable for the fulness with wich it abounds in the latter refreshmentary rinsiple. Beware of counterfitts—none genuine unless imported directly from us (Me and Joanny), bearin our traid mark, wich is a accorate illustrashun of one of our Jewkundy pigs a catin of a baked pertur—observe that the tales curl to the left. Copies sent by male on rescat of prise.

Elder Spugglegig informs me that the pertur was originally discovered by Brigadier Sargent Cortez when he invaded Noo Jersey in serch of Coolan simpatishers, at which time they was so small as only to be visible by the ade of a condense stearyscope. What a change since then periods. This execrable root has ben enhance generations arter generation, until finally, at last, the pinnacle of perfection is clumb, and Me and Joanny is a setting on the top on it.

N. B.—There is no room for any one else on the same pinnyecl. It is said that doorn the bluddy and sangvin conflix between the early Pilgrim Fathers and the Apash Indians, on ocasshun the Pilgrims running short of ampinshun, they pored a couple of pales full of nitro glissering into a flour barl, and filling it up with tubercles, tetcht it off into the raux of a fu riments of people waryurs, wich so astonishd the Indians that they quietly piled up their sords and revolvers, gerded up their loins, and fled to Chicawgo.

In our recent tussles with the untutored savij, it has ben found more econome to doos the turners to a likwid state, wich a hilly civilizin effect onto the barbarians.

We recommend Simpkins patent as sooperior to all others for this chrishun perpus, furnishes, as it dux, more bliss and enlightenment to the gallun, than any other knone means of civilizashun.

As another evidence of its usefulness, let us refer to the facility with wich it affords happiness to that outrageous, insignificant, ongrateful, slimy little viper, the Colorado P. Bug, wich is one of the blissness of hevyn for wich we hev no speshil use. True they air luvly, but ther invilness, like the countenance of a alligator, smiles but to destroy.

Lastly we remark what we hev never before observed, that perturates hev reached their present perfected and celestial state cheafly thro' the superannated conceptions and Herculeum efforts of Mrs. Simpkins, wich is Joanny and me, her himeinal companion and effectual husband, wich can be obtained in ther purty only by addresssing us with the proper greenbox. Orders for less than one not received. Send us a handful of stumps, and we will forward a cattleg of this exaltit bulb, with esculent remarks on its virtue, consistency, and freedom from everything derogatory to a good moral character. Illustrated by an affecting view of our pigsty during a dark and stormy nite in January.

JOANNY AND SIMON SIMPKINS. PUBLISHED BY NICHOLS, EGYPT, ELLING.

CHURCH MANNERS.

Timely Suggestion Concerning Some Universal Evils.

The *Christian Union* takes up the subject of "Church Manners," and treats it in a most sensible manner. We give a summary: We hear much said about a "becoming behavior" in the house of God; and it is laid down that one should be devoted and reverential in church. But will this justify a man in keeping his pew-door shut when strangers are without seats? or in permitting those who are within his reach to go without a book while he is devoutly using the best one in the pew? If in some there were less sobriety and more politeness, would not the devotions be more profitable to the soul and more acceptable to God? The fact is, one may have his mind so entirely raised above the world on Sunday, as to forget a great many little duties quite allied to that benevolence which the gospel inculcates. No Christian man has a right to make another person unhappy, or even to annoy him, through self-indulgence, carelessness, or selfish devotion. Violent perfumes, especially those containing musk, are disagreeable to most persons, and to some positively distressing, and ought therefore to be avoided when going into a crowded assembly. Whispering in church, during service, is an affront to politeness. Coughing can be avoided, in a great degree, by taking a few precautionary measures; and in all cases when it is a man's duty to sleep in church, it is his duty, also, to snore with the soft pedal down. Since every one likes to see the minister, each one should take some thought that he may obstruct the sight of those behind him as little as possible. Many churches have the ten commandments set upon the wall, in sight of the whole congregation, although not one of the sins reported therein is likely to be committed in church time. Would it not be well to have another tablet, enumerating the sins which men are prone to commit in church time?

Stewart's Store.

Edward Crosey tells of A. T. Stewart's store, "that the average daily sales have been: silk, \$15,000; dress goods, \$6,000; muslins, \$3,000; laces, \$2,000; shawls, \$2,500; suits, \$1,000; calicoes, \$1,500; velvets, \$2,000; gloves, \$1,000; furs, \$1,000; hosiery, \$600; boys' clothing, \$700; Yankee notions, \$600; embroideries, \$1,000; carpets, \$5,500. The total average daily receipts of the entire establishment are \$80,000, and have been known to reach \$87,000. To do all this business requires an army of employees. There is one general superintendent and nineteen superintendents of departments, nine cashiers, twenty-five book-keepers, thirty ushers; fifty-five porters, two hundred cash-boys, nine hundred seamstresses, and others in the manufacturing department (including the laundry), three hundred and twenty clerks, of whom a small portion are women, and one hundred and fifty in the carpet department. Without particularizing further, it is sufficient to state that with the extra help often required, twenty-two hundred persons are usually needed to discharge the duties of the establishment. Such figures were never known in the trade of a single house. It is because they are so exceptional and so fast, that I have given them. The number of persons visiting the store in a single day has been estimated to reach fifty thousand, on some rare occasions, such as opening days; the average daily number is placed at fifteen thousand. And this traffic is no respecter of persons; the wealthy dame in quest of silks and velvet, and the poor working-woman in want of a cheap calico dress, here meet on a common level."

What will Fit Him to be a Farmer?

A boy 15 years old, who is at school, asks us what books we would recommend him to read, to fit him to be a farmer. If our young friend is at a common school we would advise him to give his attention in the first place to thoroughly mastering all the studies that are taught there. Do not, in a haste to build your house, forget to lay a good foundation. The great trouble with many men of excellent talents is, that they had not the opportunities for a good elementary education—the foundation—or if they had them, they neglected them for something more attractive. Do not let the desire to be a good farmer, or any thing else, turn your attention from the common school studies. No accomplishments, or picked up bits of science, can answer in their place. These being attended to, then we would advise such reading as will teach the laws that govern the common operations of the farm. One of the best books for an intelligent boy is *Thomas' Farm Implements*, which is full of interest, if he would know the why and wherefore of things. The first principles of Mechanics, or Natural Philosophy, as it is often called, are given, and their application to various kinds of farm work shown. We hope that there are many boys who propose to be farmers, and we advise them, and indeed other boys, and the girls too, to learn the laws of motion and gravitation, the properties of air, water and steam, etc., as they will not only be of great use to them in all mechanical operations, but make them more intelligent men and women. —*American Agriculturist.*

Ice Mountain in West Virginia.

On the east bank of the North river, in Hampshire county, West Virginia, is perhaps one of the greatest curiosities in the State. It is literally an ice mountain, in height from four hundred to five hundred feet. The western side of this mountain is covered with loose stone of a light color from base to summit. By removing the stone, pure, solid crystal ice can be found in the warmest days of summer, and it has been found there as late as the middle of September. It may exist throughout the entire year if the rocks were removed to a sufficient depth. What seems strange is, that the side of the mountain where the ice is found is exposed to the sun throughout the day; and it is said the sun does not have as much effect in melting the ice as continuous rains. At the base of this mountain is a spring of water, very clear and cold. Some years ago the owner of the property removed the stone and erected a small log dairy or spring house, in which meats can be kept at any season as safe as they can be preserved in an ice house. Flies and snakes sometimes find their way into the spring house, where they immediately become chilled and torpid. On being removed they soon recover life and motion. This celebrated mountain is situated twenty-six miles northeast of Winchester, and sixteen miles from Romney, in Hampshire county, West Virginia. —*Punkahde News.*

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

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With this issue, the undersigned propose to commence the publication of a Weekly Newspaper, styled the KNOXVILLE CHRONICLE, to be followed in a few weeks by a Daily.

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We share with all our people the pride and spirit becoming Tennesseans, but we claim a share too of the greater pride and glory becoming Americans. Our fields and rivers and mountains are but a part of this great Republic dedicated to liberty and progress, and the CHRONICLE will always be found battling for such laws and such a public spirit as encourage enterprise and capital from every clime; and we shall know "no North, no South, no East, no West," but shall meet every man as a fellow-citizen of our restored Union.

We will do all in our power to advance and protect the interests of home industry, advocating from time to time such measures as in our opinion are best adapted to secure this end.

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The Pope's Precautions against Poison.

At the time of mass, before the consecration, the box containing the hosts is placed on the altar, from which the Holy Father selects three, which are placed in a row. The pope indicates one, but refrains from touching it. This the deacon takes to Monsignor Marinelli, who consumes it at once, being careful "to look into the eyes of the pope." The pope then points to one of the remaining two, which the deacon at once consumes, looking at the pope. The third is used by the pope himself, no one being allowed to touch it, under pain of excommunication. The deacon then takes the cruets containing the wine and water, and, without wiping the chalice, pours a little of each into it. This is drunk by the sacristan, looking at the pope as before. The deacon then does the same. The remainder is consumed by His Holiness. These precautions presuppose that if the sacristan is guilty of poisoning, either personally or by collusion, he will show symptoms in his countenance when he has to consume the elements. Hence he must look at the pope, then the deacon, who is a cardinal generally, is interested in the sacristan's good faith, for he shares the same risk. If the chalice is poisoned, it will probably be by some mixture rubbed on its sides. This is much more than a ceremony, and the present pontiff exacts every title of it.

Alexander H. Stephens says that Jefferson's first inaugural and Lincoln's first inaugural are the two finest pieces of composition of the kind in the country.

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